

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 L-01

SP-02 PM-03 DODE-00 ACDA-10 H-01 PRS-01 /056 W

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R 181209Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9754

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIFSABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0969

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, SU

SUBJECT: SUDANESE ROLE ON ERITREAN ISSUE

REF: ADDIS ABABA 4513

1. SURPRISED LEARN FROM AMBASSADOR HUMMEL'S HELPFUL REFTTEL THAT WE HAVE RECENTLY HAD HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSIONS OF ERITREAN PROBLEM WITH CERTAIN ARAB COUNTRIES. IN MY JUDGMENT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL TO HAVE INCLUDED GOS IN THIS EXERCISE. NOT ONLY IS SUDAN THE ARAB COUNTRY WITH THE MOST DIRECT STAKE IN PEACEFUL SOLUTION ERITREAN ISSUE BUT IT IS ALSO ONE DOING, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THE MOST ABOUT IT. NIMEIRI'S ADMITTEDLY SO FAR UNPRODUCTIVE MEDIATION EFFORT STILL FLICKERS ON. ACCORDING ONE REPORT, KHARTOUM 0967, HE HAS JUST BEEN PRESSING PLF LEADER SABBE, WHO NOW HERE, TO NEGOTIATE WITH EPMG. NIMEIRI WOULD DEARLY LOVE SOME DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS ON THIS EFFORT.

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2. ADDITIONALLY, GOS HAS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BEEN QUIETLY SEEKING MODERATE UNCRITICAL ARAB SUPPORT FOR ERITREANS (KHARTOUM 0659 AND 0706). MINSTATE FONAFFS AHMED TOLD ME ONLY YESTERDAY HE WILL BE MAKING SPECIAL PITCH TO THIS EFFECT AT ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING NEXT WEEK. (AHMED ALSO SEEMED HAPPIER ABOUT CURRENT EVOLUTION ARAB ATTITUDES ON ISSUE, ASSERTING IRAQIS NOW MORE MODERATE AND "ONLY SYRIANS" STILL FERVENT BACKERS ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE.)

3. WHILE I HAVE NO DELUSIONS RE AREA INFLUENCE THIS LARGE LIMPING LAND, ASSUME WE WOULD WISH FORTIFY AND ENCOURAGE ANY AND ALL SUCH EFFORTS, AS SUDANESE UNDERTAKING, TO BRING ABOUT EARLY ERITREAN SETTLEMENT. OFFICIAL CONSULTATIONS WITH GOS OF TYPE UNDERTAKEN WITH OTHER ARABS WOULD SEEM FROM THIS ADMITTEDLY PAROCHIAL VANTAGE POINT MATERIALLY USEFUL FOR THIS PURPOSE.
BREWER

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NNN

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